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# Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------180845Z 129259 /23
O 180815Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5070

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6327

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, WB, GE, GW, US, UR, UK
SUBJ: FRENCH OBJECT TO FRG DISCUSSIONS WITH GDR AND SOVIETS
ON FLAG TOURS AND BERLIN STATUS

REF: (A) USBER 1611 (B) BONN 9956 (C) BONN 10078

1. FRENCH EMBASSY EAST BERLIN DCM JESSEL RAISED WITH CHARGE
JUNE 17 MATTER OF FRG PERMREP'S DISCUSSING FLAG PATROLS
WIH SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS (REFTEL). WHILE NOT
EXPRESSING ANNOYANCE ALONG LINES OF PERRIN IN WEST BERLIN,
JESSEL SAID HE FELT SOME APPROACH TO THE FRG PERM REP
WAS CALLED FOR. E SAID HE INTENDED SOME TIME DURING THE WEEK
OF JUNE 20-24 TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH BRAUTIGAM IN A
WAY THAT WOULD NOT BE OFFENSIVE. JESSEL WOULD SAY HE
APPRECIATED WILLINGNESS OF FRG TO SHARE INFORMATION;
THE ISSUES OF BERLIN AND PATROSL HOWEVER FALL WITHIN
COMPETENCE OF THREE WESTERN ALLIES; THEY HAD BEEN RAISED
WITH SOVIETS; AND THAT WE PREFERRED TO LET IT REMAIN
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DORMANT. JESSEL ADDED HE THOUGHT THAT, FOR A VARIETY OF
REASONS, ANY APPROACH THAT NIGHT BE MADE TO WEST
GERMANS SHOULD BE MADE IN EAST BERLIN, RATHER THAN IN
BONN OR ELSEWHERE.

2. CHARGE SAID HE WAS AWARE OF FRENCH CONCERN ABOUT PERMREP
TAKING INITIATIVE IN RIASING FLAG PATROLS WITH SVIETS

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AND EAST GERMANS. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, CHARGE SAID HE
WAS LESS CONCERNED THAN APPARENTLY FRENCH IN BERLIN WERE,
ADDING HE COULD UNDERSTAND WHY WEST GERMSNA WANTED TO
GET EAST GERMAN/SOVIET READING ON BERLIN IN CONNECTION
WITH FORTHCOMING INNER-GERMAN TALKS. IF THERE WERE SIGNS
THAT PERMREP WANTED TO CONTINUE TO DISCUSS BERLIN
STATUS/FLAG PATROLS WITH SOVIETS/EAST GERMANS, THEN THESE
WOULD BE CAUSE FOR CONCERN AND REASON TO APPROACH THE
WEST GERMANS, EITHER HERE OR ELSEWHERE. SO FAR, IN
CHAREG'S VIEW, THIS DID NOT SEEM TO BE THE CASE.
FURTHERMORE, AN APPROACH ON THE ISSUE NOW TO THE WEST
GERMANS COULD MAKE THEM LESS WILLING IN THE FUTURE TO
SHARE INFORMATION ON INNER-GERMAN MATTERS OF INTEREST
TO US. CHARGE SAID THAT HE WAS WITHOUT GUIDANCE ON THE
MATTER OF AN APPROACH TO THE PERMREP, AND THEREFORE
COULD NEITHER ASSOCIATE OR DISSOCIATE THE EMBASSY WITH
THE POSSIBLE FRENCH APPROACH, BUT WOULD MAKE AN
APPROPRIATE QUERY. IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE'S QUESTION,
JESSEL SAID BRITIS EMBASSY HERE WAS IN SAME BOAT
-- I.E., WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS -- AS US EMBASSY.

3. COMMENT: I THINK THE WEST GERMANS HERE HAVE ON THE
WHOLE BEEN QUITE FORTHCOMING IN SHARING INFORMATIN
IN MATTERS OF INTEREST TO US. SLAPPING THEM ON THE
WRIST NOW, HOWEVER GENTLY, COULD MAKE THEM LESS WILLING
TO SHARE INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN THEY
ARE PREPARING FOR THE INNER-GERMAN TALKS. IT IS
REGRETABLE THAT THEY RAISED THE FLAG PATROL ISSUE WITH
THE SOVIETS/EAST GERMANS, BUT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT,
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IF THE PATROL ISSUE REMAINS DORMANT, THEY WOULD HAVE
REASON TO RAISE THE MATTER AGAIN. SHOULD THEY DO SO,
THEN I THINK WE WOULD HAVE A REAL REASON TO ASK THEM,
IN A LOW-KEY FASHION, TO REFRAIN. I WOULD RECOMMEND
THEREFORE THAT, AT THIS STAGE, NOTHING BE SAID TO THE
WEST GERMANS, EITHER HERE OR ELSEWHERE, AND THAT WE URGE
THE FRENCH NOT TO MAKE THE APPROACH THEY APPARENTLY
PLAN TO MAKE. REQUEST GUIDANCE. POLANSKY

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# Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
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**TAGS:** PGOV, WB, GC, GE, US, UR, UK
**To:** BONN
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